



SINCE

1841

WOODLAND

HISTORIC CEMETERY & ARBORETUM



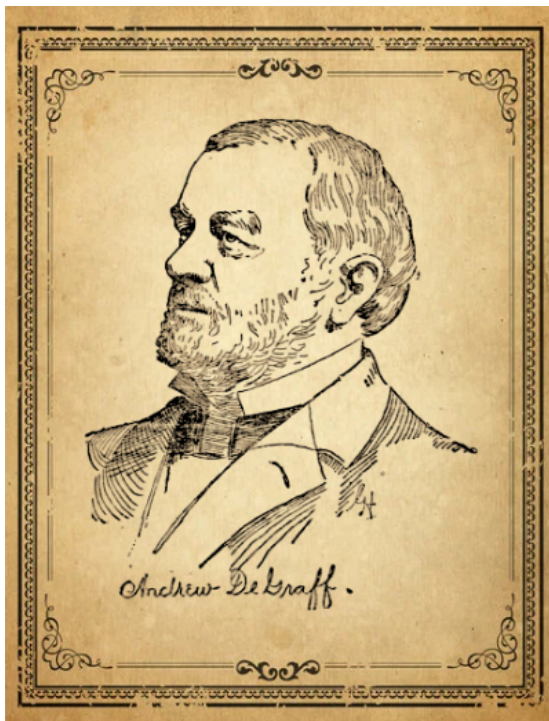
Col. Andrew De Graff

About an hour north of Dayton is the town of DeGraff, Ohio, named for “The Railway King” himself: Col. Andrew De Graff; remembered as a “marked man of the nation,” “builder of railroads, elevators and projector of great schemes,” and “one of the most notable characters in the growth of the northwest.”

So, who was Col. De Graff?

To learn more, we turn to *The Saint Paul Globe*’s obituary of the man, published November 8th, 1894*:





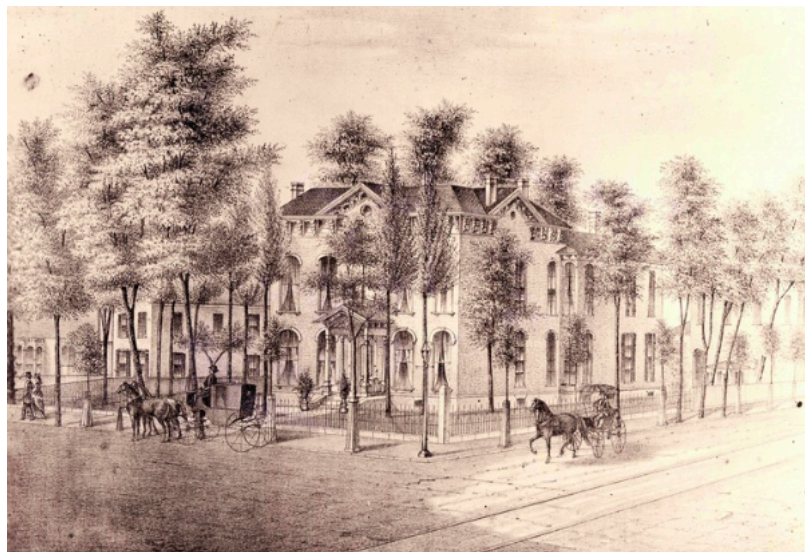
Above: etching of Col. Andrew De Graff published by the St. Paul Globe, 11/8/1894

*To read Col. De Graff's obituary in full, click [HERE](#)

"Andrew De Graff, or Col. De Graff, as he has always familiarly been called, has long been an important figure in the Northwest. All that region tributary to the Mississippi owes much of its present prosperity to the shrewd foresight of Col. De Graff, who was quick to perceive the necessity of railroads for the rapid transportation of the rich products of this fertile region. Under his able generalship lines of rail were constructed all over this entire district, and over thirty years ago Col. De Graff received the well-earned title of "Railroad King of Ohio.""

"Within a half century this notable man has seen little villages expand and grow into large and important cities. Under his watchful eye thinly settled territories have grown into great and populous commonwealths. His field of operation in the way of railroad construction has extended over no less than a dozen states. With the iron arteries of commerce he united these states. His foresight told him that this vast and fertile region would someday become the seat of a new empire, where millions would find prosperous and happy homes."

Right: 1875 lithograph of the De Graff home on the southeast corner of Ludlow Street & Monument Avenue; courtesy of the [Lutzenberger Picture Collection](#).



Our visitors may be asking; "What De Graff mausoleum?"

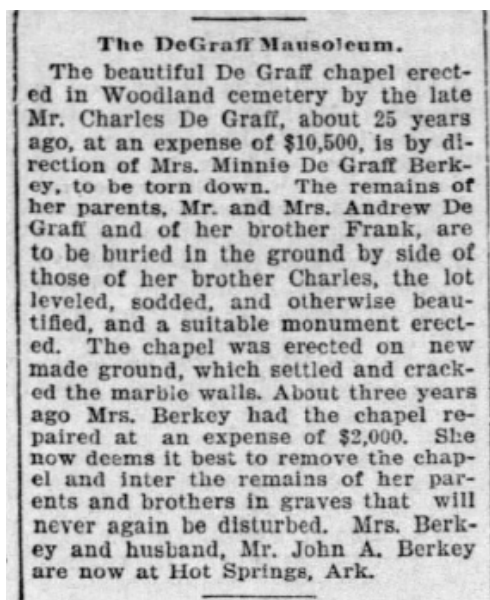
The one that *used* to be there. This short article published by the Dayton Herald in 1899 reveals the key piece of information:

"No one could see Col. De Graff, even in his broken condition, and not realize that he was one among many thousands – a man marked by nature with force and keen and broad insight. He was a man of affairs. No one could see him and not realize that he was, or had been.

Standing considerably over six feet tall, with square, broad shoulders, possessing a handsome, strong, magnetic countenance, clear keen eyes, rather heavy eyebrows, hair black and only tinged with gray even to his dying day, he was a most commanding figure wherever seen. Up to his last appearance walking about, even in his declined condition of mind, he stood as straight as an arrow, and seemed to thrill with the inspiration of youth.

For more than fifty years he was a great organizer of great schemes, such as railroads, elevator projects, etc. He began in Ohio, and came eventually to Minnesota, not giving up his prodigious schemes in the former state. At the time of his death he was a heavy stockholder in great projects in both Ohio and Minnesota and in several other states.

The funeral arrangements are not yet made."



In 1873, Col. De Graff's son Charles purchased the family lot for \$2,688.60, including perpetual care from the cemetery.

About 10 years after Charles died, the shifting & settling of the soil caused the mausoleum walls to crack, which is why his younger sister, Minnesota De Graff (called 'Minnie' for short) chose to have it torn down and the family reinterred on the lot. For whatever reason, after the demolition of the family mausoleum, no headstones or markers were ever put in place.

Today, the De Graff family lot is a peaceful grassy space overlooking the eastern edge of the cemetery, with a great view of the pond. Visitors can find this lot in section 106, lot 1798 by clicking [HERE](#).

Support Woodland!

For 184 years, Woodland has been a place of remembrance, reflection, and beauty. This Giving Tuesday, you can help preserve that legacy.

Your donation to the Woodland Arboretum Foundation supports landscape care, tree preservation, historic restoration, and our commitment to keeping Woodland a welcoming sanctuary for all.

Please consider a tax-deductible gift today

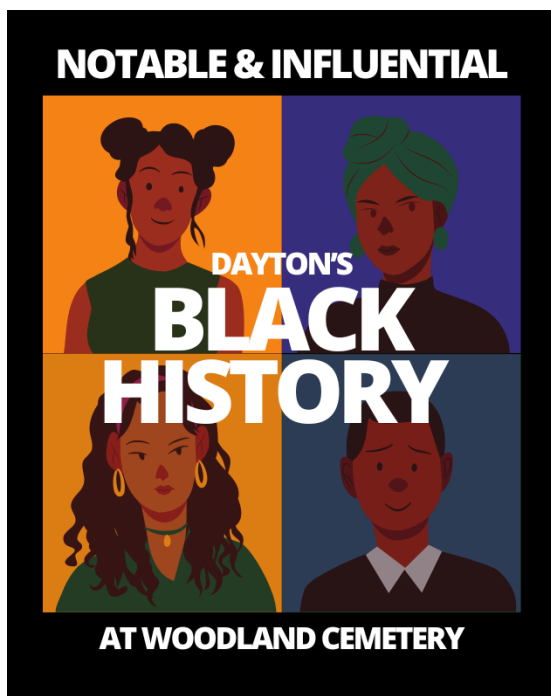
Thank you for supporting Woodland's mission.

With gratitude,

Woodland Arboretum Foundation



Upcoming Events!



[Black History Mausoleum Tour](#)



[End of Winter Bird Walk](#)

Come Visit Us!



Office Hours:

Monday-Friday
8am-5pm

If you need help finding where someone is buried,
need directions to a particular area, or have
questions about pre-planning or funeral services,
Woodland's Staff is here to assist you!

Volunteer opportunities

Woodland is seeking volunteers to give presentations to community groups on subjects such as local history, notable biographies, and trees.

Not into public speaking? Consider getting involved with our horticulture team, or assisting with special events & research projects.

*If there is something you'd like to see here at Woodland please reach out to us & suggest it!

Tours & More:

We welcome walkers, runners, and wanderers -- leashed dogs & school groups.

Register for a guided tour: visit the Woodland Cemetery website! Learn about fascinating Daytonians resting peacefully in one of America's oldest rural garden cemeteries!

Or check out our **virtual tours!** (if you really don't want to go outside)



Photos by Kevin L. Myers
www.DaytonOhioPhotos.com



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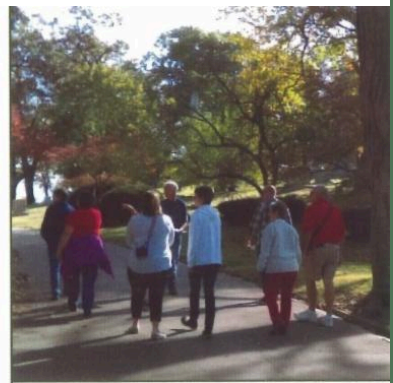
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Woodland Cemetery and Arboretum

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